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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/599,455	09/28/2006	Toyohiro Sakai	SW24-P07060US	9233
33356 7590 12/12/2007 SoCAL IP LAW GROUP LLP 310 N. WESTLAKE BLVD. STE 120 WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA 91362			EXAMINER MAY, ROBERT J	
			ART UNIT 2885	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 12/12/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/599,455

Applicant(s)

SAKAI ET AL.

Examiner

Robert May

Art Unit

2885

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 September 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/17/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION'

The preliminary amendment filed September 28, 2007 has been entered.

Drawings

Figures 8 and 9 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

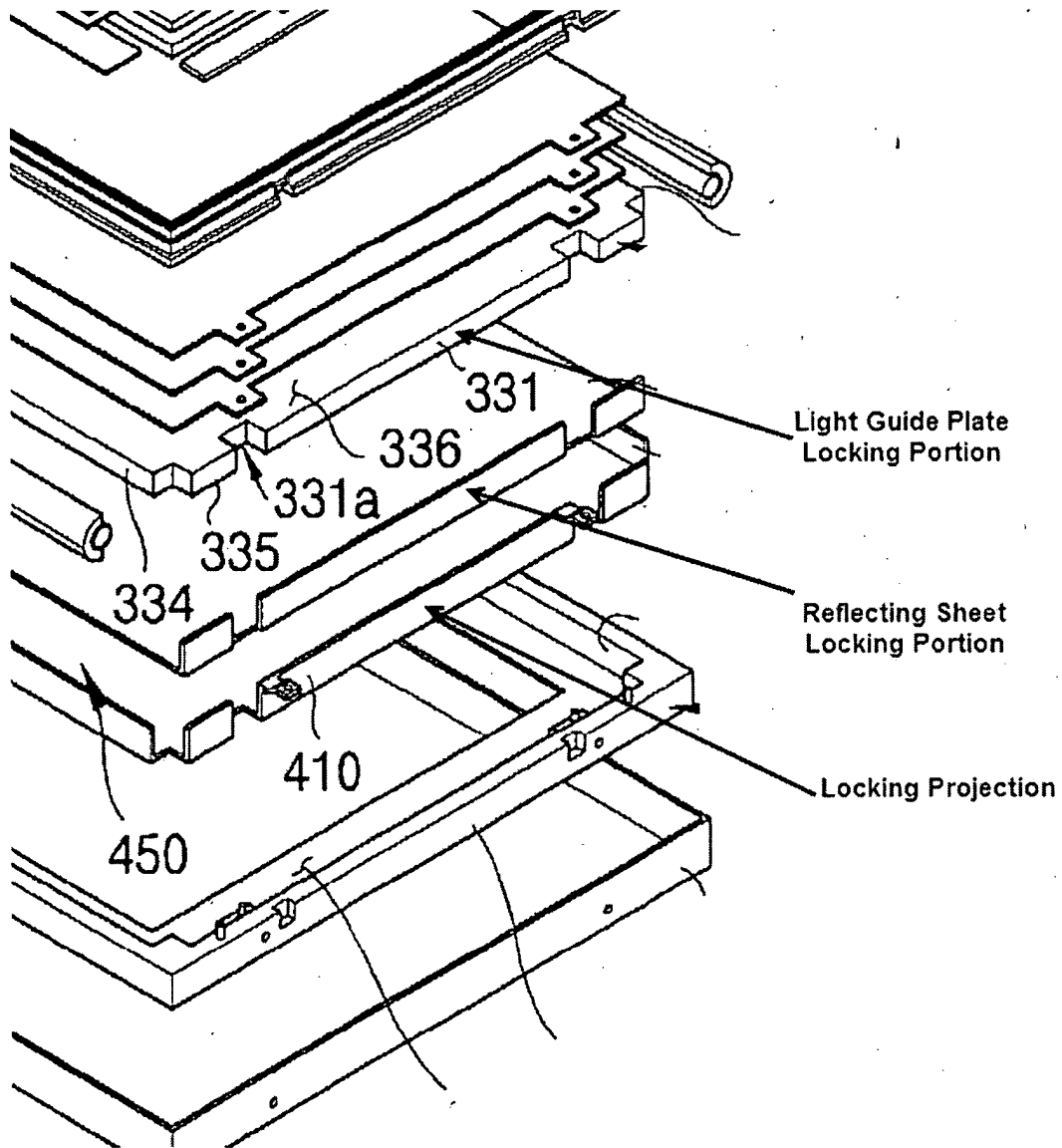
The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee (2003/0223020).

Regarding Claim 1, Lee discloses in Figure 1, a lighting unit comprising a housing 400, 500 having a rectangular bottom wall, wherein a locking projection (vertical side tab extending from the bottom wall of chassis 400 as shown in the annotated figure) that projects from said bottom wall is formed respectively at a pair of facing side edges of the housing; a reflection sheet 350 that has locking portions (as shown in the annotated figure) that lock with said locking projections, a light guide plate 330 that is laminated over said reflection sheet and has locking portions (as shown in the annotated figure) that lock with said locking projections, and light sources 310 deployed at both ends of said light guide plate 330 and wherein said locking projections are formed on the center line that connects the center points of those of said light guide plate's edges on which no light source is deployed.



Regarding Claim 2, Lee discloses in Figure 1, said locking projections are linear projections of a particular length that are parallel to the facing side edges.

Regarding Claim 5, Lee discloses in Figure 1, the liquid crystal display comprising the lighting unit according to claims 1 and further comprising a liquid crystal panel 210 that is located on the irradiating surface side of said lighting unit.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (2003/0223020) in view of Onishi (JP 2000180854)

Lee fails to disclose one of said opposed linear projections is longer than the other.

Onishi discloses in Figure 7, an LCD display with housing having linear locking projections 17 where one is longer than the other on either side of a light guide 11 to achieve a desired dimensional attribute while accommodating a required structural connection between the chassis and the light guide plate (Col 5, lines 20-24).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adjust the relative dimensions of the linear locking projections in order to accommodate a particular dimensional requirements of the display at the side of the light guide as taught by Onishi, because a person of ordinary skill would have had good reason to pursue the

known option of adjusting the relative dimensions which is considered to be within his or her technical grasp. This leads to the anticipated success of achieving a particular dimensional attribute while accommodating a structural connection and it is determined that this claimed feature is not of innovation, but of ordinary skill and common sense.

See *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007).

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (2003/0223020) in view of Shiotani (JP 2002-006142).

Lee fails to disclose the longitudinal center point of one of said opposed locking projections lies on said center line, while the other locking projection is formed with its longitudinal center point in a position removed from said center line.

Shiotani discloses in Figure 8, an LCD assembly wherein a projection 15 has its longitudinal center point of one of said opposed locking projections lies on said center line, while the other locking projection is formed with its longitudinal center point in a position removed from said center line to achieve a desired dimensional attribute while accommodating a required structural connection between the chassis and the light guide plate (Col 7, lines 9-13).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to change the projections of Lee so that the longitudinal center point of the projection lies on the center line and the other having its center point removed from the center line in order to accommodate a particular dimensional requirements of the display at the side of the light guide as taught by Shiotani, because a person of ordinary skill would have had

good reason to pursue the known option of adjusting the dimensions of the projections which is considered to be within his or her technical grasp. This leads to the anticipated success of achieving a particular dimensional attribute while accommodating a structural connection and it is determined that this claimed feature is not of innovation, but of ordinary skill and common sense. See *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert May whose telephone number is (571) 272-5919. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays 9am-12pm & 1-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jong-Suk (James) Lee can be reached on (571) 272-7044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RM
12/7/07



JONG-SUK (JAMES) LEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER